

REMARKS

This Amendment (including the below remarks) are being filed along with a Request for Continued Examination (RCE). Claims 8, 12, 13, 14, and 18 were amended above. No new matter has been added. Claims 8 to 18 are now pending. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of this Amendment.

In an earlier Office Action, claims 8 to 11 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious under U.S. Patent No. 5,425,103 to Shaw ("Shaw reference") and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,142,578 to Matyas et al. ("Matyas reference").

Claim 8, its dependent claims 9 to 11, and claim 18, have been amended to include a feature of a crypto-module and an encryptor. Support for such amendments can be found throughout the Specification and in the originally filed claims. The Shaw and Matyas references have been discussed at length in Applicants' previous submissions. Neither reference --even in combination -- appears to teach or describe such a feature as the crypto-module and encryptor as claimed in claims 8 to 11 and 18. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) under the Shaw and Matyas references of claims 8 to 11 and 18.

In an earlier Office Action, claims 12 to 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable under the Shaw reference, in view of the Matyas reference, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,513,261 to Maher ("Maher reference"). The Shaw and Matyas references do not teach or disclose the features of claims 12 to 17 which concern the encryptor and the separate crypto-module storing a Vernam key and a cipher. Moreover, notwithstanding the Maher reference's use of an electronic card, the Maher reference does not provide for both features of an encryptor and a separate crypto-module as claimed in claims 12 to 17. Instead, the Maher reference refers to an electronic card requiring a PIN by a user, and from which is generated an encryption key needed to allow access to the security parameters. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) under the Shaw, Matyas, and Maher references of claims 12 to 17.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the currently pending claims 8 to 18 are allowable over the cited references. It is therefore respectfully requested that the present application issue as early as possible.

Dated: April 26, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

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